

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island

August 2, 2005



East Providence man is charged with robbery, firearms offenses in bar holdup

The United States Attorney has charged **Joseph Medeiros**, of East Providence, with federal robbery and firearms offenses, alleging that Medeiros used a sawed-off shotgun in a robbery at an East Providence bar in May 2004.

The office of United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced a four-count information, which was filed yesterday in U.S. District Court Providence.

According to the information, Medeiros, brandishing a sawed-off shotgun, committed a robbery at the East Providence Yacht Club on May 18, 2004. The information also alleges that Medeiros was a felon in possession of a firearm.

The information was filed after Medeiros, 53, of 256 Warren Avenue, indicated that he would waive his right to have the evidence reviewed by a grand jury. An information is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Upon conviction, the maximum penalties for the offenses charged in the information are: robbery by force and intimidation – 20 years in federal prison; possessing a sawed-off shotgun and being a felon in possession of a firearm – ten years imprisonment; brandishing a sawed-off shotgun during a crime of violence – ten years to life imprisonment, consecutive to any other sentence imposed. Each offense also carries a maximum \$250,000 fine.

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East Providence Police arrested Medeiros the same day as the robbery and charged him with state offenses. The federal information was filed after the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office jointly reviewed the case as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 650 years in federal prison.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein is prosecuting the case. **East Providence Police** and **ATF** investigated it.

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